

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

9. (New) A method of knitting tubular knit fabric in which multiple tubular portions are knitted and connected using a flat-knitting machine including at least one pair of facing needle beds extending in the sideways direction and facing each other front to back, at least one of the facing needle beds being capable of racking in the sideways direction, and the flat-knitting machine being capable of transferring stitches between the facing needle beds, said method comprising:

knitting a first tubular portion and a second tubular portion so that the first tubular portion has a first orientation with respect to the second tubular portion;

turning the first tubular portion having the first orientation by a predetermined amount by transferring stitches of the first tubular portion and by racking of the needle bed so that a stitch of the first tubular portion farthest from the second tubular portion is transferred, whereby the first tubular portion is turned toward the second tubular portion and has a second orientation with respect to the second tubular portion; and

knitting so as to link the first tubular portion to the second tubular portion while the first tubular portion is held in the second orientation so that the tubular knit fabric is shaped to match a configuration of a human body.

10. (New) The knitting method of claim 9, wherein the first tubular portion comprises a glove portion and the second tubular portion comprises a body portion, said turning comprising turning the glove portion so that a thumb of the glove portion faces a front side of the body portion of a knitted garment by said racking of the needle bed and said transferring of the stitch immediately following knitting of the glove portion to empty needles, and said knitting so as to link the first tubular portion to the second tubular portion comprising continuously knitting the glove portion, the body portion, and a sleeve portion after said turning so as to form the knit garment.

11. (New) The knitting method of claim 9, wherein the first tubular portion comprises a thumb portion and the second tubular portion comprises a four-finger portion, said turning comprising turning the thumb portion no more than one quarter turn by said racking of the needle bed and said transferring of the stitch by which the thumb portion has been knit to empty needles, and said knitting so as to link the first tubular portion to the second tubular portion comprising, after said turning, knitting to connect the thumb portion and the four-finger portion to a five-finger tube portion.

12. (New) A tubular knit fabric comprising:

multiple tubular portions knitted and connected using a flat-knitting machine including at least one pair of facing needle beds extending in the sideways direction and facing each other front to back, at least one of the facing needle beds being capable of racking in the sideways direction, and the flat-knitting machine being capable of transferring stitches between the facing needle beds, said tubular portions including:

a first tubular portion and a second tubular portion knitted so that the first tubular portion initially has a first orientation with respect to the second tubular portion, the first tubular portion having the initial first orientation being turned by a predetermined amount by transferring stitches of the first tubular portion and by racking of the needle bed so that a stitch of the first tubular portion farthest from the second tubular portion is transferred, whereby the first tubular portion is turned toward the second tubular portion and has a second orientation with respect to the second tubular portion, the first tubular portion being linked to the second tubular portion with the first tubular portion in the second orientation so that the tubular knit fabric is shaped to match a configuration of a human body.